



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

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WAYNE J. OZMORE, JR.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER/ SECRETARY TO THE BOARD
W. CURTIS COLEBURN, III

2901 HERMITAGE ROAD
P.O. BOX 27491
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261
(804) 213-4400
FAX: (804) 213-4411
TDD LOCAL (804) 213-4687

CIRCULAR LETTER 11-1

DATE:

May 12, 2011

TO:

ALL RETAILERS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

SUBJECT:

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA (also known as: Spice and K-2)

On March 1, 2011, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued an order placing five synthetic cannabinoids (synthetic marijuana) into the Controlled Substances Act. This action was based on a finding, by the Administrator of the DEA, that the placement of these synthetic cannabinoids into Schedule I of the Act is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to public safety. It is now a violation of federal code to possess, give, sell, gift, or possess with the intent to sell, give, or distribute these substances.

The 2011 Virginia General Assembly passed legislation amending the Code of Virginia (COV), listing synthetic cannabinoids (synthetic marijuana) in Schedule I of the Controlled Substance Act. 18.2-248.1:1 COV makes the possession, sale, gift, or possession with the intent to sell, give, or distribute synthetic marijuana a criminal offense. The minimum punishment for a violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor, carrying up to 1 year in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine. This new law became effective March 23, 2011 when the Governor signed the bill. **Failure to remove these items from your establishment, or selling them, will result in criminal charges and actions taken by this agency to suspend or revoke the establishment's ABC license.**

INQUIRIES: Any inquiries or concerns should be directed to your local Special Agent or Regional Office.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Curtis Coleburn".

W. Curtis Coleburn, III
Chief Operating Officer/Secretary To The Board